CLAIMS

We claim:

1   1.   A method for operating a server responsive to a request
2   for data from a client browser, comprising the steps of:

3   receiving from said browser a head request for the
4   header of a data file;

5   responsive to said head request, serving to said
6   browser data file header information including data
7   type and data size;

8   receiving from said browser a get request; and
9   thereafter

10   responsive to said get request, serving to said browser
11   data corresponding to said header.

1   2.   A method for operating a client browser for requesting
2   a data file from a server, comprising the steps of:

3   receiving data parameters from a browser user;

4   communicating to said server a head request;

5   receiving from said server in response to said head
6   request a data file header describing data file
7   parameters;

8   determining if said data file parameters are within

9   said user data parameters; and if so,

10   communicating to said server a get request requesting

11   said server to serve said data file.

1   3.   The method of claim 2, wherein said data parameters

2   define the data type and data size acceptable to said user

3   and wherein said data file parameters include the data

4   content type and data content size of said data file.

1   4.   The method of claim 3, wherein said data file comprises

2   a plurality of data files including one or more inline

3   documents.

1   5.   The method of claim 4 wherein each of said plurality of

2   data files is of a type selected from the set of data file

3   types including image data, video data, audio data, and text

4   data.

1   6.   The method of claim 5, wherein a head request is

2   submitted separately for each said inline document.

1   7.   The method of claim 6, wherein said get request is

2   submitted selectively only for those inline documents having

3   data parameters within said user parameters.

1   8.   The method of claim 3, wherein said data parameters
2   include a maximum data size and a minimum data size
3   acceptable to said user.

1   9.   The method of claim 2, responsive to said data file
2   parameters not being within said user data parameters,
3   comprising the further step of providing to said user the
4   option of modifying said user data parameters.

1   10.   The method of claim 2, responsive to said data file
2   parameters not being within said user data parameters,
3   comprising the further step of providing to said user the
4   option of requesting a portion of said data file.

1   11.   A server system, comprising:

2   a first logic element for receiving from a client
3   browser a head request for the header of a data
4   document;

5   a second logic element responsive to said head request
6   for serving to said client browser a data document
7   header including data type indicia and data size
8   indicia;

9   a third logic element for receiving from said browser a
10   get request; and

11   a fourth logic element responsive to said get request
12   for serving to said browser a data document

13 corresponding to said header.

1 12. A server system, comprising:

2 first means for receiving from a client browser a head
3 request for the header of a data document;

4 second means responsive to said head request for
5 serving to said client browser a data document header
6 including data type indicia and data size indicia;

7 third means for receiving from said browser a get
8 request; and

9 fourth means responsive to said get request for serving
10 to said browser a data document corresponding to said
11 header.

1 13. A client browser for requesting a data file from a
2 server, comprising:

3 means for receiving data parameters from a browser
4 user;

5 means for communicating to said server a head request;

6 means for receiving from said server in response to
7 said head request a data file header describing data
8 file parameters;

9 means for determining if said data file parameters are

10   within said user data parameters; and if so,

11   means operable for communicating to said server a get
12   request requesting said server to serve said data file.

1   14.   A program storage device readable by a machine,
2   tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by a
3   machine to perform method steps for operating a client
4   browser for requesting a data file from a server, said
5   method steps comprising:

6   receiving data parameters from a browser user;

7   communicating to said server a head request;

8   receiving from said server in response to said head
9   request a data file header describing data file
10   parameters;

11   determining if said data file parameters are within
12   said user data parameters; and if so,

13   communicating to said server a get request requesting
14   said server to serve said data file.

1   15.   An article of manufacture comprising:

2   a computer useable medium having computer readable
3   program code means embodied therein for operating a
4   client browser for requesting a data file from a
5   server, the computer readable program means in said

6   article of manufacture comprising:

7   computer readable program code means for causing a
8   computer to effect receiving data parameters from a
9   browser user;

10   computer readable program code means for causing a
11   computer to effect communicating to said server a head
12   request;

13   computer readable program code means for causing a
14   computer to effect receiving from said server in
15   response to said head request a data file header
16   describing data file parameters;

17   computer readable program code means for causing a
18   computer to effect determining if said data file
19   parameters are within said user data parameters; and if
20   so,

21   computer readable program code means for causing a
22   computer to effect communicating to said server a get
23   request requesting said server to serve said data file.

1   16.   A computer program element for operating a client
2   browser for requesting a data file from a server according
3   to the steps of:

4   receiving data parameters from a browser user;

5   communicating to said server a head request;

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6   receiving from said server in response to said head
7   request a data file header describing data file
8   parameters;

9   determining if said data file parameters are within
10   said user data parameters; and if so

11   communicating to said server a get request requesting
12   said server to serve said data file.

1   17.   A program storage device readable by a machine,
2   tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by a
3   machine to perform method steps for operating a server
4   responsive to a request for data from a client browser,
5   said method steps comprising:

6   receiving from said browser a head request for the
7   header of a data file;

8   responsive to said head request, serving to said
9   browser data file header information including data
10   type and data size;

11   receiving from said browser a get request; and
12   thereafter

13   responsive to said get request, serving to said browser
14   data corresponding to said header.